



REUTERS

Kenya's #1 Sugar Company Also a Growing Power Generator

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Kenya's Mumias Sugar has increased power output at its operations by 50 percent since last year and announced plans for further increases in the next five years.

Mumias, the top sugar producer in Kenya, initiated the project last year as a means to boost financial performance. It uses sugar byproducts to generate power through a process called cogeneration. It has successfully improved output from 26 megawatts to 38 megawatts.

"Twenty-six megawatts goes to the (national) grid and the remaining 12 MW is utilized in the plant," said Andrew Karuga, the Mumias Sugar power plant manager.

The company sells its power to Kenya's sole power distributor, Kenya Power and Lighting Company.

Kenya has relied on hydro energy to meet about 90 percent of its electricity needs but drought has cut capacity at main dams. Thus, the government is looking to expand power generation from other renewable sources.

Upon completion of an ethanol plant in western Kenya, Mumias plans to increase power output all the way to 50 megawatts. The plant is on track for completion in late 2011.

The company also has a five-year plan to build another production facility in the Tana River delta on the Kenyan coast, which will include sugar, power and ethanol plants.

To read the entire article, [click here](#).

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